Defence cooperation agreement

347. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL; Will the FRIMB MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Russia had put forward a triangular defence cooperation agreement between India, China and Russia for permanent peace in the region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government of India and also Government of China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No proposal from the Government of Russia has been received by the Government of India. This subject was not also discussed at the official level during the recent visit of the Russian Federal Assembly delegation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Strength of India contingent in UN operations in Somalia

34S. SHRI VTREN J. SHAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

'a) what are tb© details of strength of +h<= Indian contingent (rank-wise") which is serving the ongoing United Nations operation?! *w*>_ Somalia;

(b) how many of our Army personnel have lost their lives and injured during these operations and what are their names and designations;

(c) what are the details of the com. pensation and other benefits granted by the United Nations to the bereav. sd families and to those who havs been injured; and

(d) what financial and other bens-fits have been granted to these families/injured persons by Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKABJUN): (a) 219 Officers, 277 JCOs and 4493. Other Ranks are deployed in UN peace Keeping operations in Somalia.

(b) Since the time of deployment of the Indian trocps on UN Peace Keeping Missions in Somalia, 14 of their personnel have been killed and 36 injured. lit will not be desirable to disclose the names and designations of the deceased/injured personnel.

(c) and (d) For the troop contin gent including Staff Officers deployed iu UN Peace Keeping operations> as per UN Regulations, in cases of death, injury or illness attributable to ser vice, UN reimburses payments made hy Governments based upon their National Legislations and/of Regulations. As per Government orders, death, injury or illness during this Peace Keeping operations will be treated as battle casualties and be covered for liberalised pensionary awards. Apart from the pensionary benefits, the families would also be entitled to death benefit from Army Group Insurance if the deceased was covered. Sometimes grants are also given from Army. Wives Welfare Association Fund; Disabled Army Personnel, Widow and Orphans Fund and Army Officers Beaevolent Fund on the merit of the case.

Bird hits at IAF service ai»*?elds

34<>. SHRT KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PPTME MINISTER Vr tV eased to state:

fa) whether any study has been made t© identify the IAF service air* <Mds as prone to bird strikes;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the estimated loss suffered by the TAF annually due to bird rii+n; and

(c) what strategy hag been formu lated by Government to check the incidents of tipifc* hits at rhte IAF service airfields?